



(12) **United States Patent**
Ludwig

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 10,413,743 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Sep. 17, 2019**

(54) **PACING DEVICE WITH AUTONOMOUS ANTI-TACHYCARDIA PACING**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **15/728,238**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 9, 2017**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2018/0028829 A1 Feb. 1, 2018

Related U.S. Application Data

(62) Division of application No. 14/620,862, filed on Feb. 12, 2015, now Pat. No. 9,782,601.

(Continued)

(51) **Int. Cl.**

A61N 1/39 (2006.01)

A61N 1/362 (2006.01)

(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **A61N 1/3962** (2013.01); **A61B 5/042** (2013.01); **A61B 5/0464** (2013.01);

(Continued)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC **A61B 5/042**; **A61B 5/0464**; **A61B 5/4836**; **A61N 1/0504**; **A61N 1/0563**;

(Continued)

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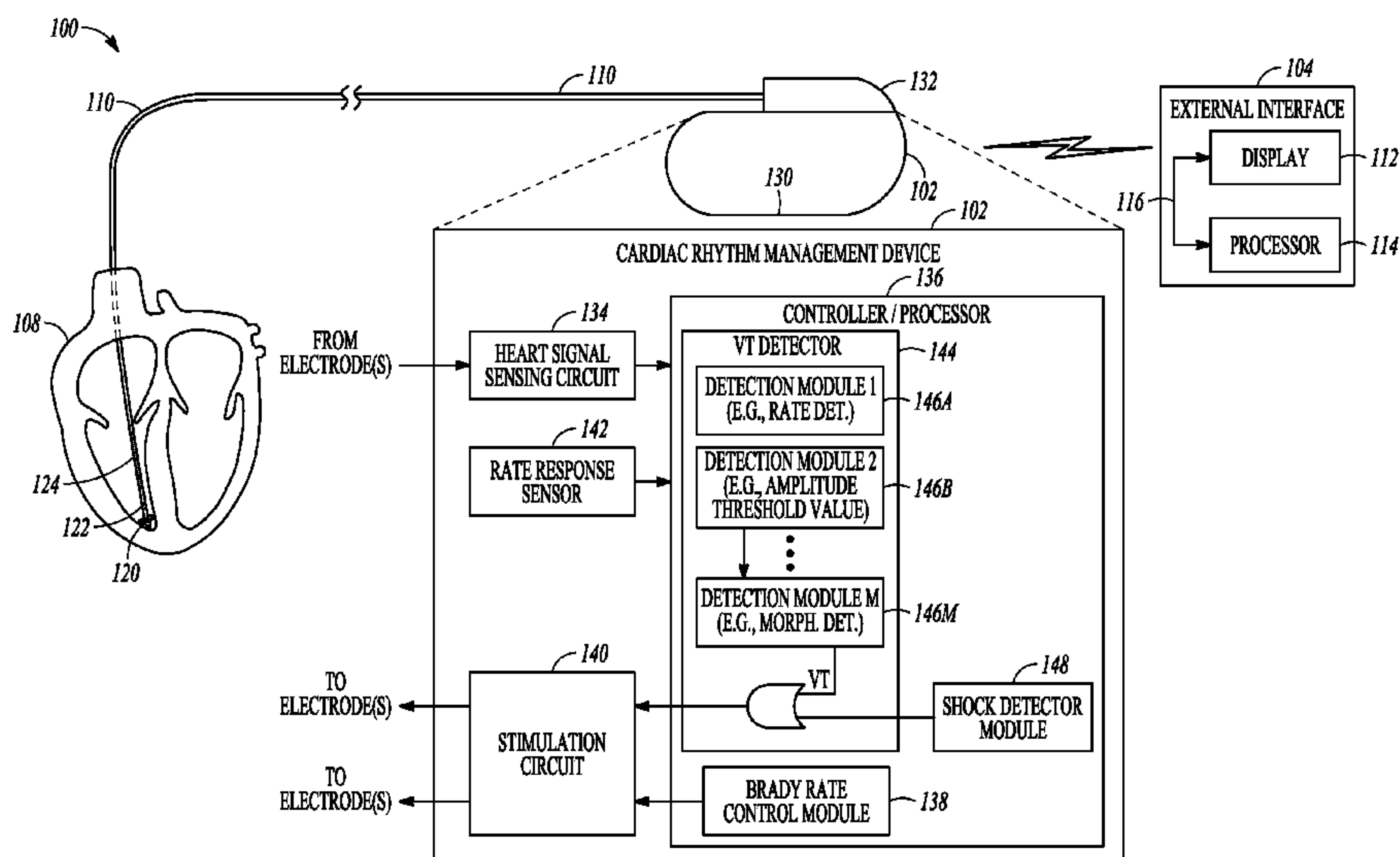
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

In an example, an apparatus is described that includes an implantable housing, a heart signal sensing circuit configured to sense intrinsic electrical heart signals, a ventricular tachyarrhythmia (VT) detector circuit, operatively coupled to the heart signal sensing circuit, the detector circuit operable to detect a VT based on the sensed heart signals, a processor configured to control delivery of an anti-tachyarrhythmia pacing (ATP) therapy based on the detected VT, and an energy delivery circuit configured to deliver the ATP therapy in response to the detected VT, wherein the apparatus does not include a shock circuit capable of delivering a therapeutically-effective cardioverting or defibrillating shock.

14 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 61/979,634, filed on Apr. 15, 2014.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

<i>A61B 5/042</i>	(2006.01)
<i>A61B 5/0464</i>	(2006.01)
<i>A61B 5/00</i>	(2006.01)
<i>A61N 1/05</i>	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC *A61B 5/4836* (2013.01); *A61N 1/3621* (2013.01); *A61N 1/3622* (2013.01); *A61N 1/3931* (2013.01); *A61N 1/0504* (2013.01); *A61N 1/0563* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC .. A61N 1/3621; A61N 1/3622; A61N 1/3931; A61N 1/3962

See application file for complete search history.

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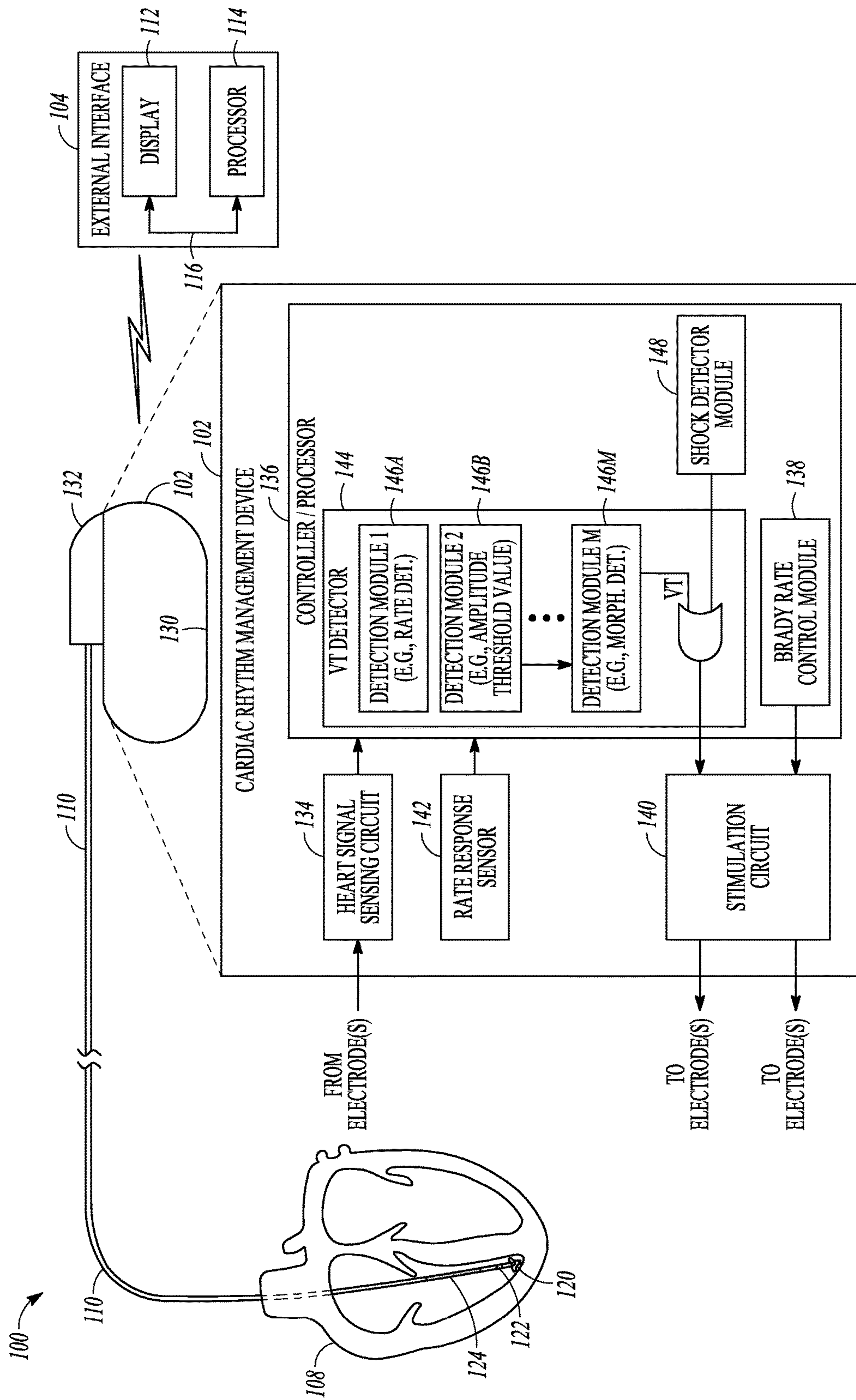


FIG. 1

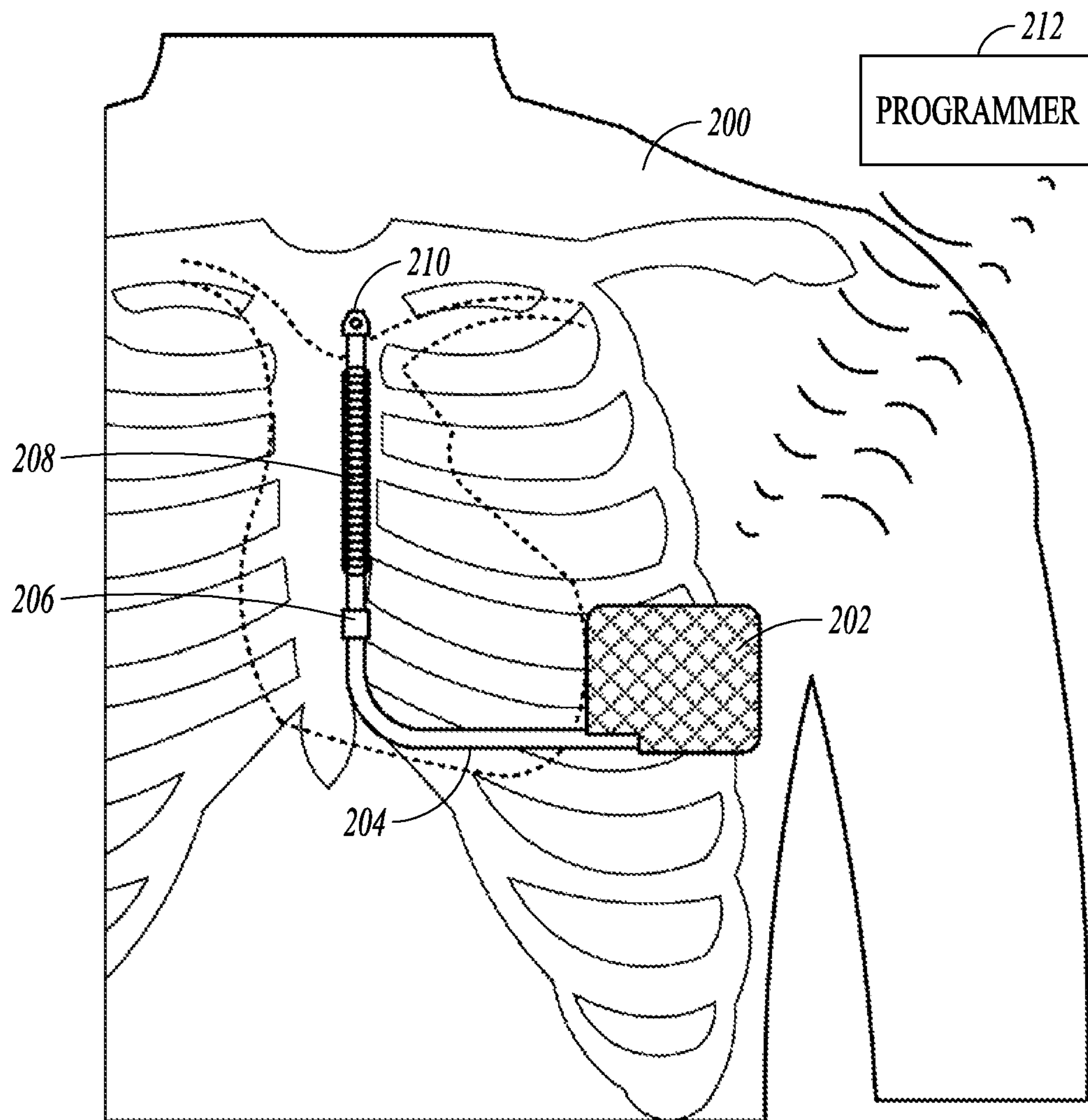


FIG. 2

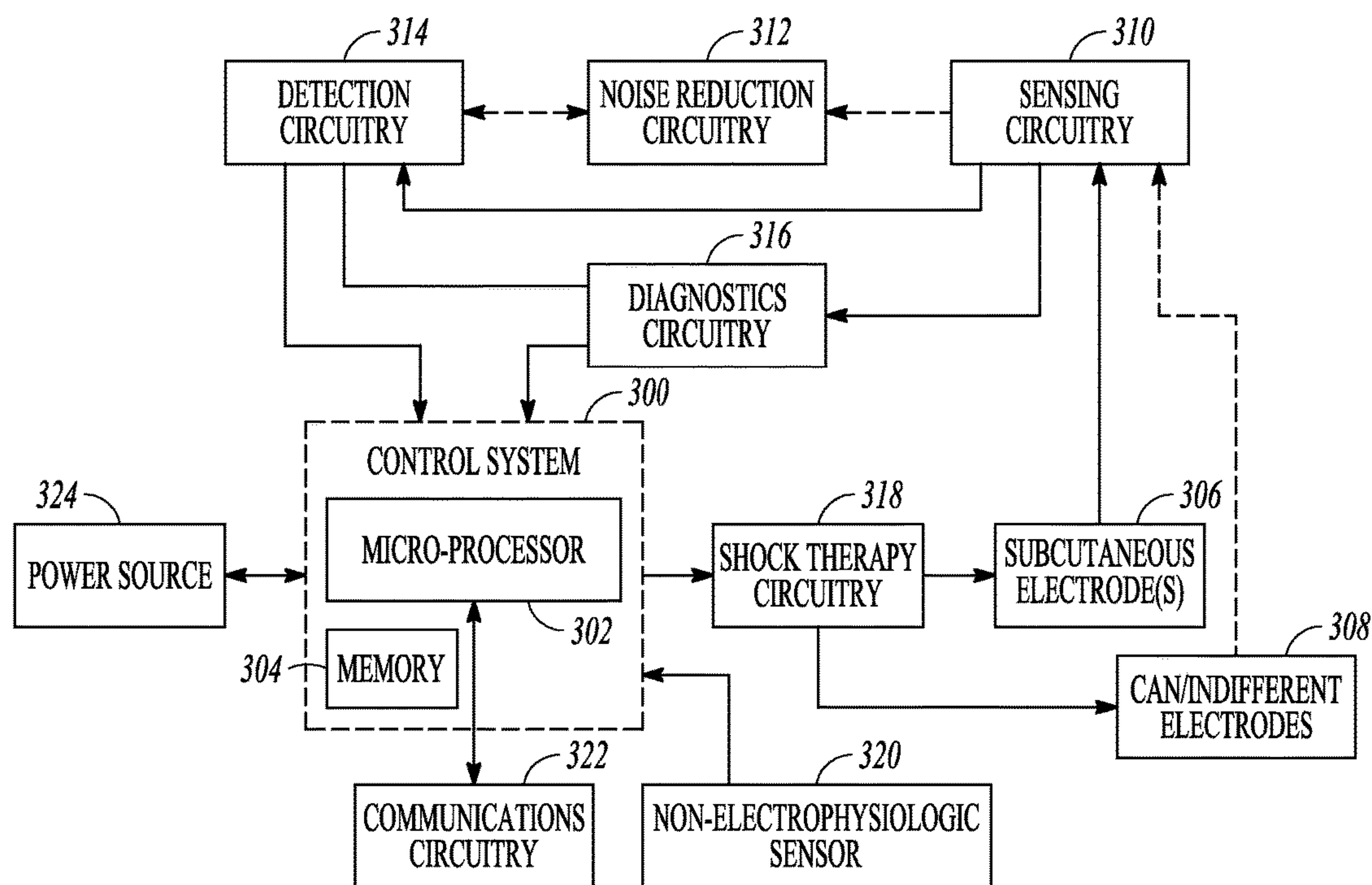


FIG. 3

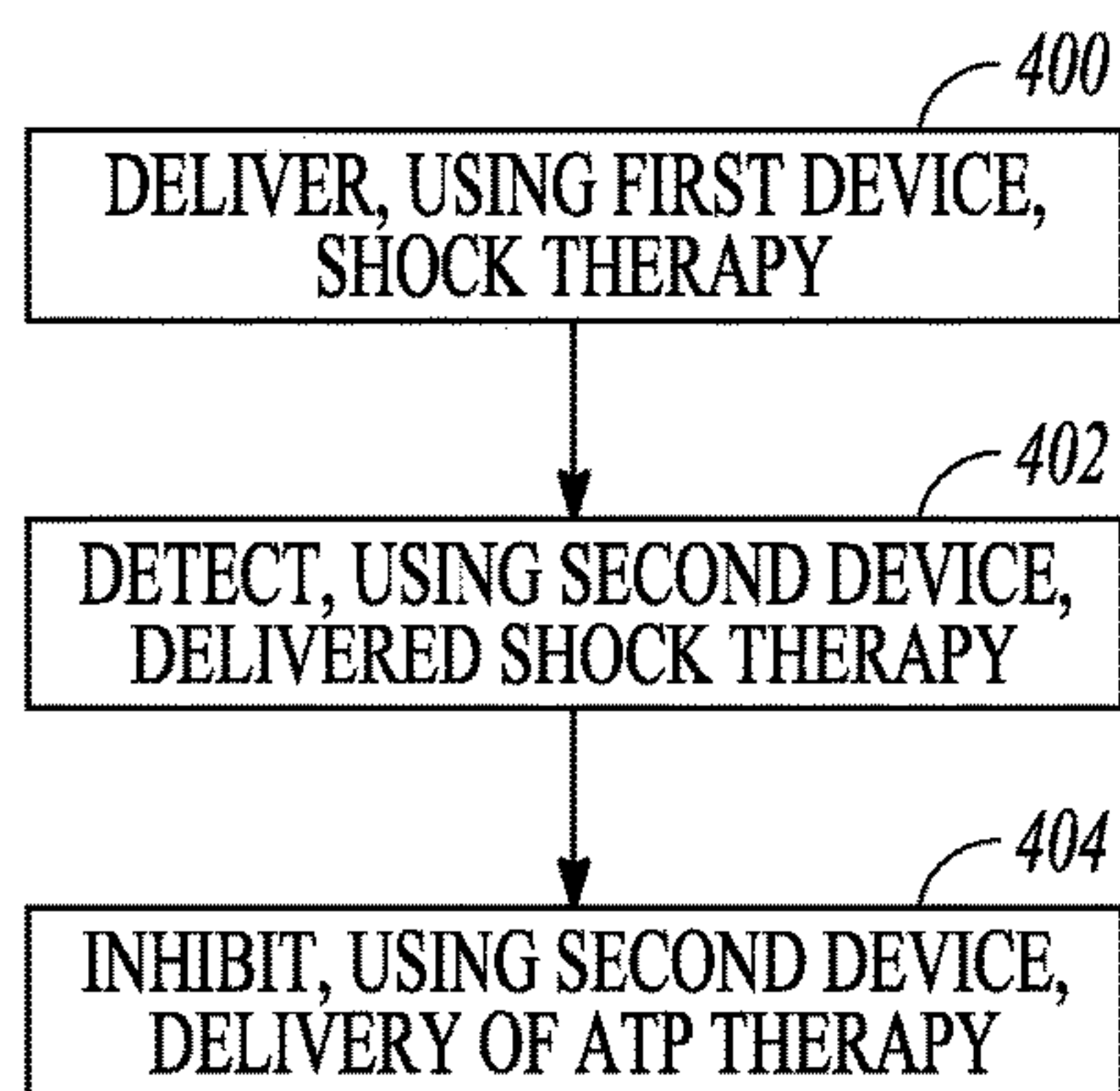


FIG. 4

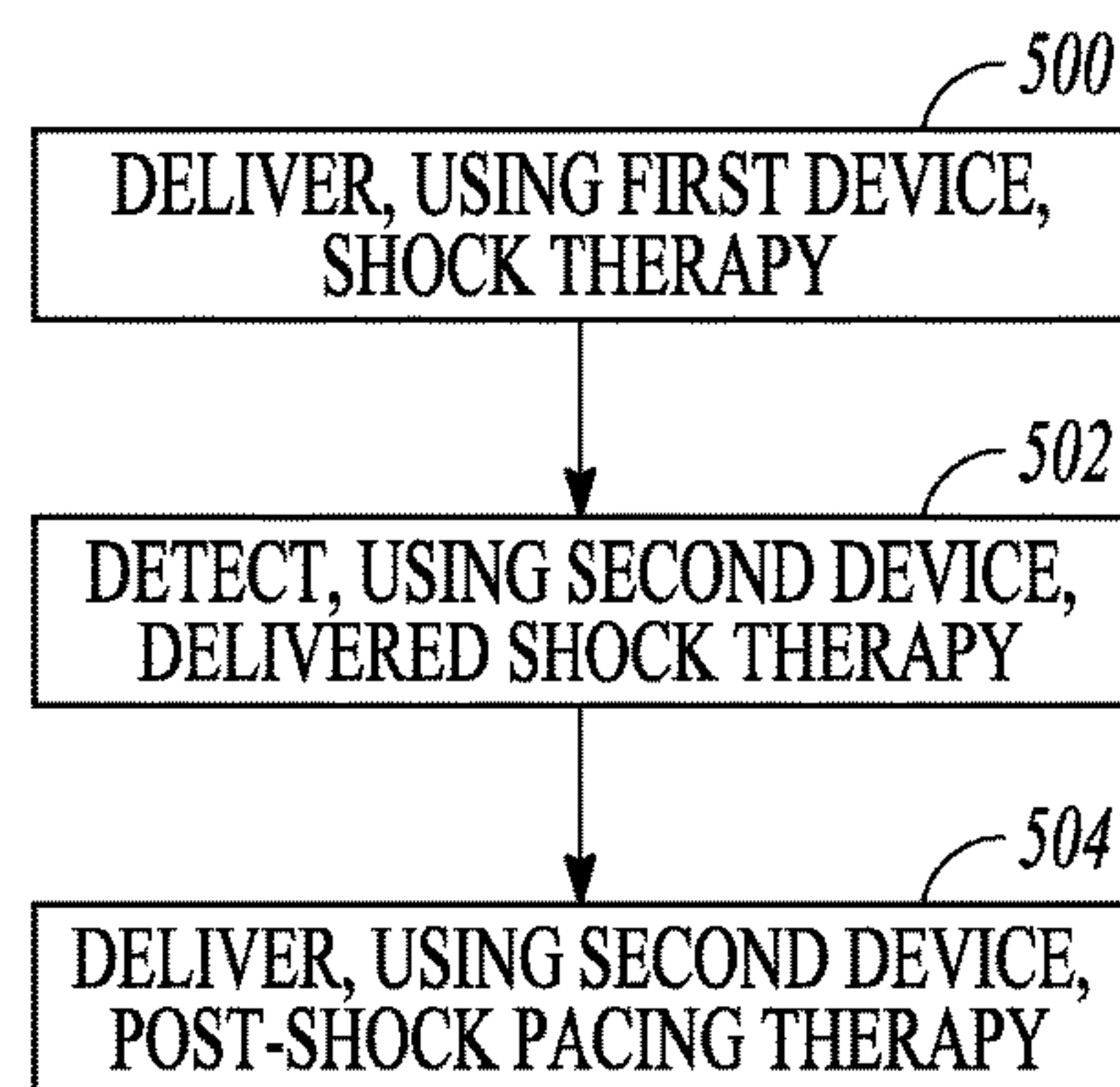


FIG. 5

PACING DEVICE WITH AUTONOMOUS ANTI-TACHYCARDIA PACING

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

This application is a divisional of U.S. application Ser. No. 14/620,862, filed Feb. 12, 2015, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 9,782,601, which claims the benefit of priority of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/979,634, titled “PACING DEVICE WITH AUTONOMOUS ANTI-TACHYCARDIA PACING” to Jacob M. Ludwig, and filed on Apr. 15, 2014, each of which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

This disclosure relates generally to medical devices and more particularly, but not by way of limitation, to a pacing device.

BACKGROUND

The healthy heart produces regular, synchronized contractions. Rhythmic contractions of the heart are normally controlled by the sinoatrial (SA) node, which is a group of specialized cells located in the upper right atrium. The SA node is the normal pacemaker of the heart, typically initiating 60-100 heartbeats per minute. When the SA node is pacing the heart normally, the heart is said to be in normal sinus rhythm.

If the heart’s electrical activity becomes uncoordinated or irregular, the heart is denoted to be arrhythmic. Cardiac arrhythmia impairs cardiac efficiency and can be a potential life-threatening event. Cardiac arrhythmias have a number of etiological sources, including tissue damage due to myocardial infarction, infection, or degradation of the heart’s ability to generate or synchronize the electrical impulses that coordinate contractions.

Bradycardia occurs when the heart rhythm is too slow. This condition may be caused, for example, by impaired function of the SA node, denoted sick sinus syndrome, or by delayed propagation or blockage of the electrical impulse between the atria and ventricles. Bradycardia produces a heart rate that is too slow to maintain adequate circulation.

When the heart rate is too rapid, the condition is denoted tachycardia. Tachycardia may have its origin in either the atria or the ventricles. Tachycardias occurring in the atria of the heart, for example, include atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter. Both conditions are characterized by rapid contractions of the atria. Besides being hemodynamically inefficient, the rapid contractions of the atria may also adversely affect the ventricular rate.

Ventricular tachycardia occurs, for example, when electrical activity arises in the ventricular myocardium at a rate more rapid than the normal sinus rhythm. Ventricular tachycardia can quickly degenerate into ventricular fibrillation. Ventricular fibrillation is a condition denoted by extremely rapid, uncoordinated electrical activity within the ventricular tissue. The rapid and erratic excitation of the ventricular tissue prevents synchronized contractions and impairs the heart’s ability to effectively pump blood to the body, which is a fatal condition unless the heart is returned to sinus rhythm within a few minutes.

Implantable cardiac rhythm management systems have been used as an effective treatment for patients with serious arrhythmias. These systems typically include one or more leads and circuitry to sense signals from one or more interior

and/or exterior surfaces of the heart. Such systems also include circuitry for generating electrical pulses that are applied to cardiac tissue at one or more interior and/or exterior surfaces of the heart. For example, leads extending into the patient’s heart are connected to electrodes that contact the myocardium for sensing the heart’s electrical signals and for delivering pulses to the heart in accordance with various therapies for treating arrhythmias.

SUMMARY

In general, this disclosure describes techniques that allow a bradycardia pacing device to deliver anti-tachycardia pacing (ATP) and/or post shock pacing when implanted with a concomitant subcutaneous implantable cardioverter/defibrillator (S-ICD), for example. Using various techniques of this disclosure, the bradycardia pacing device may, for example, independently detect ventricular tachycardia (VT) and deliver anti-tachycardia pacing in response to the detected VT. Also, using various techniques of this disclosure, the bradycardia pacing device may include cardioversion/defibrillation shock detection capabilities and be configured to deliver post-shock pacing in response to detecting a shock.

In one aspect, this disclosure describes a system comprising a first device and a second device. The first device includes a first implantable housing, a plurality of subcutaneous electrodes configured to sense a plurality of electrical signals, a first processor configured to control delivery of a first cardiac electrical therapy based on the sensed electrical signals, and a first energy delivery circuit configured to deliver shock therapy. The second device includes a second implantable housing, a heart signal sensing circuit configured to sense intrinsic electrical heart signals, a ventricular tachyarrhythmia (VT) detector circuit, operatively coupled to the heart signal sensing circuit, the VT detector circuit operable to detect a VT based on the sensed heart signals, a second processor configured to control delivery of an anti-tachyarrhythmia pacing (ATP) therapy based on the detected VT, and a second energy delivery circuit configured to deliver the ATP therapy.

In another aspect, this disclosure describes an apparatus comprising an implantable housing, a heart signal sensing circuit configured to sense intrinsic electrical heart signals, a ventricular tachyarrhythmia (VT) detector circuit, operatively coupled to the heart signal sensing circuit, the detector circuit operable to detect a VT based on the sensed heart signals, a processor configured to control delivery of an anti-tachyarrhythmia pacing (ATP) therapy based on the detected VT, and an energy delivery circuit configured to deliver the ATP therapy in response to the detected VT, wherein the apparatus does not include a shock circuit capable of delivering a therapeutically-effective cardioverting or defibrillating shock.

In another aspect, this disclosure is directed to a system comprising a first device and a second device. The first device includes a first implantable housing, a plurality of subcutaneous electrodes configured to sense a plurality of electrical signals, a first processor configured to control delivery of a defibrillation shock therapy based on the sensed electrical signals, and a first energy delivery circuit configured to deliver the shock therapy. The second device includes a second implantable housing, a heart signal sensing circuit configured to sense intrinsic electrical heart signals, a shock detector circuit, operatively coupled to the heart signal sensing circuit, the shock detector circuit operable to detect the delivery of shock therapy, a second

processor configured to control delivery of a post-shock pacing therapy based on the detected delivery of shock therapy, and a second energy delivery circuit configured to deliver the post-shock pacing therapy.

This Summary is an overview of some of the teachings of the present application and not intended to be an exclusive or exhaustive treatment of the present subject matter. Further details about the present subject matter are found in the detailed description and appended claims. The scope of the present invention is defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Various embodiments are illustrated by way of example in the figures of the accompanying drawings. Such embodiments are demonstrative and not intended to be exhaustive or exclusive embodiments of the present subject matter.

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating details of one example of portions of a bradycardia system that may be used to implement various techniques of this disclosure.

FIG. 2 illustrates a possible position of a subcutaneous implantable cardioverter/defibrillator (S-ICD) system.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating various components of an S-ICD that may be used to in accordance with this disclosure

FIG. 4 is an example of a method that may be used to implement various techniques of this disclosure.

FIG. 5 is an example of another method that may be used to implement various techniques of this disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Currently, a bradycardia patient may receive a pacemaker to treat a slow heart rhythm condition. A typical pacemaker, however, does not include anti-tachycardia pacing (ATP) capabilities because it may be undesirable to perform ATP therapy without a backup shock capability, due to the possibility of acceleration. Without a shock therapy capability as a backup, a life-threatening condition may result if ATP therapy was unsuccessful, or if the ATP therapy drove the heart into fibrillation. As a result, if the bradycardia patient began experiencing fibrillation, the patient's existing options include receiving a pacemaker with implantable cardioverter/defibrillator (ICD) capabilities. However, this would mean that the patient's existing pacemaker needs to be replaced with a pacemaker/ICD device, and a high-voltage lead needs to be implanted, both of which are undesirably invasive procedures.

Another existing option for the patient is to receive a subcutaneous implantable cardioverter/defibrillator (S-ICD). Existing S-ICD devices, however, do not offer ATP therapy, which when delivered to convert a fibrillation can cause less discomfort to the patient than shock therapy. In addition, existing S-ICD devices may deliver post-shock pacing via the same vector as shock therapy, which may capture a significant amount of the muscle in a patient's upper torso. This amount of muscle capture may cause patient discomfort.

This disclosure describes, among other things, techniques that may allow a bradycardia device, co-implanted with an S-ICD device, to deliver ATP and/or post-shock pacing. In accordance with this disclosure, and as described in more detail below, the bradycardia device of this disclosure may include ATP therapy capabilities, which may be turned on when co-implanted with an S-ICD. In addition, the delivery of ATP or post-shock pacing may be handled autonomously

by the bradycardia device, e.g., not in response to a communicated request from another device such as the S-ICD device. In other words, using various techniques of this disclosure, the bradycardia device itself may be capable of detecting an arrhythmia and delivering ATP, or detecting a shock and delivering post-shock therapy on its own.

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating details of one example of portions of a bradycardia system that may be used to implement various techniques of this disclosure. In this example configuration, the system 100 includes an implantable bradycardia device 102 (also referred to in this disclosure as "brady device 102"). The system 100 may also include a programmer or other external interface device 104 permitting wireless or other communication with the device 102. The device 102 may be implanted in a pectoral region of a patient. The device 102 in this example may include an electronics unit that is coupled to the patient's heart 108, such as by one or more intravascular or other leads 110. Each such lead 110 typically includes one or more electrodes for contacting a desired location within the patient 106, such as for sensing one or more intrinsic electrical heart signals or for delivering one or more pacing stimulations.

In this example, a distal portion of the lead 110 is located in a right ventricle of the heart 108 and includes one or more electrodes such as a distal tip electrode 120, a slightly more proximal ring electrode 122, and an even slightly more proximal coil or other shock electrode 124. However, the system 100 may additionally or alternatively include other leads or electrodes that may be located elsewhere in or near the heart 108. The device 102 typically includes electronics carried in a hermetically-sealed "can" 130. The can 130 typically includes one or more feedthroughs to a header 132. The header 132 typically includes one or more receptacles for receiving a proximal portion of one or more of the leads 110. One or both of the can 130 or header 132 may also include additional electrodes, such as for sensing intrinsic heart or other signals or for delivering stimulation or other energy to the patient 106.

The electronics unit of the device 102 typically includes a heart signal sensing circuit 134 to sense intrinsic electrical heart signals, such as depolarizations indicative of heart contractions. Such heart signals also include information about cardiac arrhythmias, such as ventricular tachycardia (VT). The heart signal sensing circuit 134 typically includes one or more sense amplifier circuits to detect the heart signals, one or more filters for emphasizing depolarizations or other desired information, or for attenuating undesired information. In one example, the heart signal sensing circuit 134 also includes one or more peak or level detectors for detecting occurrences of heart depolarizations and providing corresponding responsive depolarization interrupts to a micro-processor or other controller 136.

The controller 136 may include dedicated hardware or executable instructions to provide its functionality, such as to time the intervals between like depolarizations to determine a heart rate. In one example, the controller 136 includes a bradyarrhythmia rate control module 138 to determine whether the heart 108 needs a pacing-level electrical stimulation to induce or spatially coordinate a resulting heart contraction. The bradyarrhythmia rate control module 138 delivers one or more control signals to an energy deliver circuit, namely stimulation circuit 140, based on one or more operational parameters, e.g., pacing rate and voltage level. In response, the stimulation circuit 140 is configured to deliver electrical energy via the electrodes to the heart 108 to evoke or assist in evoking or coordinating a responsive heart contraction. The bradyarrhythmia rate control module 140

typically receives information from a rate response sensor **142** (e.g., accelerometer, minute ventilation, etc.) to indicate the patient's metabolic need for a particular heart rate and corresponding cardiac output.

The controller **136** may also include a VT detector **144** that is operatively coupled to the heart signal sensing circuit **134**, configured to detect a VT based on the sensed heart signals, and autonomously determine whether to deliver ATP pacing if VT is present. That is, the controller **136** of a brady device **102** that is co-implanted with an S-ICD device is capable of detecting an arrhythmia and controlling delivery of ATP therapy, e.g., via stimulation circuit **140**, without receiving a communicated request from the S-ICD device. Thus, the brady device **102** may autonomously handle the delivery of ATP therapy. By eliminating a communication requirement between the brady device **102** and an S-ICD device, for example, the techniques of this disclosure may be advantageously compatible across device manufacturers.

It may be undesirable to provide ATP therapy without the ability to deliver backup defibrillation therapy. If a patient has a tachyarrhythmia and ATP therapy is delivered, it may drive the tachyarrhythmia into fibrillation, a potentially life-threatening condition. As such, in one example implementation, the brady device **102**, which does not include the capability to deliver shock therapy, may be programmable such that ATP therapy is only available for delivery if an S-ICD device is present in the patient. For example, a physician implanting the brady device **102** knows whether the patient has an S-ICD device already implanted. If so, then the physician may enable the ATP therapy functionality of the brady device **102**.

The physician may, for example, enable the ATP therapy functionality of the brady device **102** using the programmer **104**. For example, the programmer **104** may transmit one or more operational parameters, e.g., pacing rate and voltage level, to the brady device **102**. In some examples, the one or more ATP therapy operational parameters, e.g., pacing rate and voltage level, are different than those used by the bradyarrhythmia rate control module **138** to deliver brady therapy, e.g., therapy that is neither ATP therapy nor post-shock pacing therapy.

In addition, the programmer **104** may transmit "enable" or "disable" parameters to the brady device **102** that either allow or inhibit the delivery of ATP therapy, respectively. The brady device **102** may store the received parameters, for example, in a memory device (not depicted). Upon detecting a VT, the controller **136** may determine that the ATP therapy is enabled based on the stored parameters and proceed to deliver ATP therapy.

If the patient were to have the S-ICD device removed, the physician may disable the ATP therapy functionality of the brady device **102** using the programmer **104**. For example, the programmer **104** may transmit parameters to the brady device **102**. The brady device **102** may store the received parameters, for example, in a memory device (not depicted). Upon detecting a VT, the controller **136** may determine that the ATP therapy is disabled based on the stored parameters and, as such, not deliver ATP therapy.

The determination of whether VT is present is typically performed by one or more VT detection modules **146A-M** (collectively referred to in this disclosure as "detection modules **146**"). Each detection module **146** typically includes its own particular criterion, criteria, or technique(s) for determining whether VT is present.

In one example, the VT detector **144** includes a rate detector module **146A**. In one example, the rate detector module **146A** deems a VT arrhythmia to be present if a

detected heart rate exceeds a high rate threshold value, such as a high rate threshold value that is in a range between about 150 beats per minute and about 250 beats per minute. In one example, the high rate threshold value is equal to 220 beats per minute. Therefore, in this example, only heart rhythms with a heart rate that exceeds 220 beats per minute will be deemed a VT arrhythmia by such a detection module **146A**. The particular high rate threshold value of the rate detector of detection module **146A** can be programmably adjusted to a higher or lower value to obtain (or to help obtain) the desired specificity.

In another example, a sensing control detection module **146B** is used to control how ventricular depolarizations are sensed by the heart signal sensing circuit **134**, such as to increase the specificity of detecting a ventricular tachyarrhythmia. In one example, the sensing control detection module **146B** establishes a higher amplitude level-detection threshold on the intrinsic ventricular cardiac signal sensed by the heart signal sensing circuit **134** for declaring the detection of a ventricular depolarization. For example, a typical ventricular depolarization level-detection threshold is set at about 0.3 mV. When the intrinsic cardiac signal exceeds 0.3 mV, a detected ventricular depolarization is declared. However, for the present increased VT arrhythmia specificity, the ventricular depolarization level-detection threshold is instead set between about 0.6 mV and 2.5 mV, such as at about 1.1 mV, such that a detected ventricular depolarization is declared only when the intrinsic ventricular cardiac signal level exceeds the threshold value (e.g., 1.1 mV). This improves noise rejection of spurious myopotentials and other noise. This increases the specificity of detecting ventricular depolarizations, which, in turn, increases the specificity of detecting and declaring a VT arrhythmia. In one example, the actual ventricular depolarization amplitude level-detection threshold value is established by sensing the noise floor of the intrinsic ventricular cardiac signal, and then setting the amplitude level-detection threshold value above the sensed noise floor.

In another example, the one or more detection modules **146** include a morphology detection module **146M**. In one example, the morphology detection module **146M** compares a morphology of the detected heart signal against a template morphology, such as to classify whether a detected heart rhythm is a VT rhythm that should be shocked. In one example, one or more parameters of such a morphology detection module **146M** is adjusted to obtain (or to help obtain) the desired specificity. An example of such a parameter would be a correlation coefficient threshold value, where a correlation coefficient between the detected heart rhythm and the template morphology is computed and compared to the threshold value.

In general, there are many types of detection modules **146** that can be used to detect a ventricular arrhythmia such as VT, and the various operative parameters of such modules can be programmed to obtain the desired specificity. Moreover, such detection modules **146** can be used conjunctively to further increase specificity, such as to obtain a specificity that exceeds the sensitivity. Thus, the rate and morphology detectors discussed above are merely representative illustrative examples of the types of detection modules **146** that can be used in the present system **100**.

In one example, ATP therapy parameters may be programmable, e.g., by a physician or other clinician. For example, a physician may use programmer **104** to transmit one or more ATP therapy parameters to the brady device **102**. In some example implementations, the brady device **102** may be programmed such that the ATP therapy is

delivered with a bipolar pacing vector, such that any sensing by the S-ICD device would not be adversely affected (in contrast to a unipolar pacing vector, for example). In one example implementation, one or more VT detection parameters may be programmed to ensure that the programming of the brady device 102, e.g., VT thresholds, align with the programming of the S-ICD device.

As mentioned above, using various techniques of this disclosure, the bradycardia pacing device 102 may additionally or alternatively be configured to autonomously determine whether to deliver post-shock pacing therapy in response to detecting delivery of a cardioversion/defibrillation shock. That is, the controller 136 of the brady device 102 that is co-implanted with an S-ICD device may be capable of detecting that a cardioversion/defibrillation shock was delivered by the S-ICD device and, in response, control delivery of post-shock pacing therapy without receiving a communicated request from the S-ICD device. Thus, the brady device 102 may autonomously handle the delivery of post-shock pacing therapy.

Because the brady device 102 is not configured to deliver cardioversion or defibrillation shock therapy, in order to deliver post-shock pacing, the brady device 102 should be configured to detect that the co-implanted S-ICD device has delivered a shock. In one example, the brady device 102 includes a shock detector module 148.

In one example implementation, the shock detector module 148 may determine that a shock has been delivered by the S-ICD device by monitoring one or more sense channels of the heart signal sensing circuit 134. For example, the shock detector module 148 may monitor one or more sense channels of the heart signal sensing circuit 134 and determine that a shock has been delivered if a large deviation in voltage occurs. Upon determining that a shock has been delivered, the brady device 102 may begin delivering post-shock pacing therapy.

In another example implementation, the shock detector module 148 may include a surge suppressor, or be in communication with a surge suppressor. The surge suppressor may turn on when it detects a large voltage, e.g., on the sense channels, which is indicative of delivery of a shock. Upon detecting that the surge suppressor has turned on, the shock detector module 148 may determine that a shock has been delivered and, as such, the controller 136 may begin controlling delivery of post-shock pacing therapy via stimulation circuit 140.

In some example implementations, the shock detector module 148 may include circuitry dedicated to shock detection. For example, the shock detector module 148 may include circuitry that detects and determines a voltage differential between two electrodes. Based on the voltage difference, the shock detector module 148 may determine that a shock has been delivered and, as such, the brady device 102 may begin delivering post-shock pacing therapy.

In one example, the post-shock pacing therapy may be programmable, e.g., by a physician or other clinician. For example, the programmer 104 may transmit one or more operational parameters, e.g., pacing rate and voltage level, to the brady device 102. In some examples, the one or more post-shock pacing therapy operational parameters, e.g., pacing rate and voltage level, are different than those used by the bradyarrhythmia rate control module 138 to delivery brady therapy, e.g., therapy that is neither ATP therapy nor post-shock pacing therapy.

In addition, the programmer 104 may transmit enable or disable parameters to the brady device 102 that either allow or inhibit the delivery of post-shock pacing therapy. The

physician may, for example, enable the post-shock pacing therapy functionality of the brady device 102 by using the programmer 104 to transmit one or more parameters that enable delivery of post-shock pacing therapy by the brady device 102. The brady device 102 may store the received parameters, for example, in a memory device (not depicted). Upon detecting a shock, the controller 136 may determine that the post-shock pacing therapy is enabled based on the stored parameters and proceed to deliver post-shock pacing therapy. Additionally, a physician may use programmer 104 to transmit one or more post-shock pacing therapy parameters to the brady device 102, e.g., pacing rate, etc.

In addition to the techniques described above, the brady device 102 may inhibit or stop delivery of ATP therapy if the shock detector module 148 determines that a shock has been delivered. For example, if an S-ICD device delivers shock therapy prior to or during the delivery of ATP therapy by the brady device 102, the brady device 102 may abort the ATP therapy. As mentioned above, shock detector module 148 may use dedicated circuitry or a surge suppressor, for example, to determine that a shock has been delivered.

FIG. 2 illustrates a possible position of a subcutaneous implantable cardioverter/defibrillator (S-ICD) system. The example system is implanted in a patient 200, over the patient's ribs and beneath the skin. An S-ICD device 202 is implanted, in the example, at approximately the left axilla (armpit), beneath the arm. A lead 204 extends from the S-ICD device 202 toward the patient's xiphoid and then over or slightly to the left of the sternum. The lead 204 includes electrodes 206, 208 and 210, with electrode 208 illustrated as a coil electrode designed primarily for shock delivery (though sensing via coil electrode 208 may be performed as well). The other electrodes 206 and 210 on lead 204 are shown as ring and cap electrodes, respectively. Other designs may be used. The S-ICD device 202, includes a housing having, in this example, a conductive surface or, if desired, has an area on its surface which is conductive to allow for at least sensing of electrical signals and, when needed, therapy delivery.

Other configurations and implant locations may be used instead. Examples include right-sided or anterior-posterior subcutaneous implantation, transvenous systems, epicardial systems, intravascular systems, and other implementations such as drug pumps or neurostimulation systems that may incorporate cardiac signal analysis.

A programmer or other external interface device 212 permits wireless or other communication with the device 202. In some example configurations, the programmer 212 and the programmer 104 of FIG. 1 may be the same device.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating various components of an S-ICD device, e.g., S-ICD device 202 of FIG. 2, that may be used to in accordance with this disclosure. The S-ICD device incorporates a processor-based control system 300 that includes a micro-processor 302 coupled to appropriate memory (volatile and non-volatile) 304, it being understood that any logic-based control architecture may be used. The control system 300 is coupled to circuitry and components to sense, detect, and analyze electrical signals produced by the heart and deliver electrical stimulation energy to the heart under predetermined conditions to treat cardiac arrhythmias. The electrical energy delivered by the S-ICD may be in the form of high-energy pulses for cardioversion or defibrillation.

Cardiac signals are sensed using the subcutaneous electrode(s) 306 and the can or indifferent electrode 308 provided on the S-ICD housing. Cardiac signals may also be sensed using only the subcutaneous electrodes 306, such as

in a non-active can configuration. As such, unipolar, bipolar, or combined unipolar/bipolar electrode configurations as well as multi-element electrodes and combinations of noise canceling and standard electrodes may be employed. The sensed cardiac signals are received by sensing circuitry **310**, which includes sense amplification circuitry and may also include filtering circuitry and an analog-to-digital (A/D) converter. The sensed cardiac signals processed by the sensing circuitry **310** may be received by noise reduction circuitry **312**, which may further reduce noise before signals are sent to the detection circuitry **314**. Noise reduction circuitry **312** may also be incorporated after sensing circuitry **310** in cases where high power or computationally intensive noise reduction algorithms are required.

Detection circuitry **314** typically includes a signal processor that coordinates analysis of the sensed cardiac signals and/or other sensor inputs to detect cardiac arrhythmias, such as, in particular, tachyarrhythmia. Rate based and/or morphological discrimination algorithms may be implemented by the signal processor of the detection circuitry **314** to detect and verify the presence and severity of an arrhythmic episode.

The detection circuitry **314** communicates cardiac signal information to the control system **300**. Memory circuitry **304** of the control system **300** contains parameters for operating in various sensing and defibrillation modes, and stores data indicative of cardiac signals received by the detection circuitry **314**. The memory circuitry **304** may also be configured to store historical ECG and therapy data, which may be used for various purposes and transmitted to an external receiving device as needed or desired.

In certain configurations, the S-ICD may include diagnostics circuitry **316**. The diagnostics circuitry **316** typically receives input signals from the detection circuitry **314** and the sensing circuitry **310**. The diagnostics circuitry **316** provides diagnostics data to the control system **300**, it being understood that the control system **300** may incorporate all or part of the diagnostics circuitry **316** or its functionality.

According to a configuration that provides cardioversion and/or defibrillation therapies, the control system **300** processes cardiac signal data received from the detection circuitry **314** and initiates appropriate tachyarrhythmia therapies to terminate cardiac arrhythmic episodes and return the heart to normal sinus rhythm. The control system **300** is coupled to an energy delivery circuit, namely shock therapy circuitry **318**. The shock therapy circuitry **318** is coupled to the subcutaneous electrode(s) **306** and the can or indifferent electrode **308** of the S-ICD housing. Upon command, the shock therapy circuitry **318** delivers cardioversion and defibrillation stimulation energy to the heart in accordance with a selected cardioversion or defibrillation therapy. Example configurations of ICD high energy delivery circuitry, structures and functionality, aspects of which may be incorporated in an S-ICD of a type that may benefit from aspects of the present invention are disclosed in commonly owned U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,372,606; 5,411,525; 5,468,254; and 5,634,938, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their respective entireties.

The S-ICD shown in FIG. 3 is configured to receive signals from one or more physiologic and/or non-physiologic sensors in accordance with embodiments of the present invention. Non-electrophysiological cardiac sensors **320** may be coupled directly to the detection circuitry **314** or indirectly via the sensing circuitry **310**. Non-electrophysiological cardiac sensors **320** sense cardiac activity that is non-electrophysiological in nature. Examples of non-electrophysiological cardiac sensors are blood oxygen sensors,

blood volume sensors, acoustic sensors and/or pressure transducers, and accelerometers. Signals from these sensors are developed based on cardiac activity, but are not derived directly from electrophysiological sources (e.g., R-waves or P-waves).

Communications circuitry **322** is coupled to the microprocessor **302** of the control system **300**. The communications circuitry **322** may allow the S-ICD to communicate with an external programmer.

Typically, the S-ICD is encased and hermetically sealed in a housing suitable for implanting in a human body as is known in the art. Power to the S-ICD is supplied by a power source **324** housed within the S-ICD.

FIG. 4 is an example of a method that may be used to implement various techniques of this disclosure. In the method shown in FIG. 4, a first device, e.g., S-ICD **202** of FIG. 2, delivers a shock therapy, e.g., using shock therapy circuitry **318** of FIG. 3 (block **400**). A second device, e.g., the brady device **102** of FIG. 1, detects the delivered shock therapy, e.g., using shock detector module **148** (block **402**). In response to detecting the delivered shock therapy, the second device, e.g., the brady device **102**, inhibits or stops delivering ATP therapy (block **404**).

FIG. 5 is an example of another method that may be used to implement various techniques of this disclosure. In the method shown in FIG. 5, a first device, e.g., S-ICD **202** of FIG. 2, delivers a shock therapy, e.g., using shock therapy circuitry **318** of FIG. 3 (block **500**). A second device, e.g., the brady device **102** of FIG. 1, detects the delivered shock therapy, e.g., using shock detector module **148** (block **502**). In response to detecting the delivered shock therapy, the second device, e.g., the brady device **102**, delivers a post-shock pacing therapy (block **504**).

VARIOUS NOTES AND EXAMPLES

Modules and other circuitry shown and described herein may be implemented using software, hardware, firmware and/or combinations thereof. Method examples described herein can be machine or computer-implemented at least in part. Some examples can include a computer-readable medium or machine-readable medium encoded with instructions operable to configure an electronic device to perform methods as described in the above examples. An implementation of such methods can include code, such as microcode, assembly language code, a higher-level language code, or the like. Such code can include computer readable instructions for performing various methods.

Example 1 includes subject matter (such as a device, apparatus, or machine) that may comprise: a first device including: a first implantable housing; a plurality of subcutaneous electrodes configured to sense a plurality of electrical signals; a first processor configured to control delivery of a first cardiac electrical therapy based on the sensed electrical signals; a first energy delivery circuit configured to deliver shock therapy; and a second device including: a second implantable housing; a heart signal sensing circuit configured to sense intrinsic electrical heart signals; a ventricular tachyarrhythmia (VT) detector circuit, operatively coupled to the heart signal sensing circuit, the VT detector circuit operable to detect a VT based on the sensed heart signals; a second processor configured to control delivery of an anti-tachyarrhythmia pacing (ATP) therapy based on the detected VT; and a second energy delivery circuit configured to deliver the ATP therapy.

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In Example 2, the subject matter of Example 1 may include, wherein the second processor is configured to control delivery of the ATP therapy without a communicated request from the first device.

In Example 3, the subject matter of one or more of Examples 1 and 2 may include, wherein the second device is configured to receive at least one ATP therapy parameter, and wherein the second processor is configured to enable or disable the delivery of the ATP therapy based on the at least one received ATP therapy parameter.

In Example 4, the subject matter of one or more of Examples 1-3 may include, wherein the second device comprises a shock detection module to detect delivery of the shock therapy.

In Example 5, the subject matter of Example 4 may include, wherein the second processor is configured to inhibit or stop delivery of the ATP therapy when the shock detection module detects delivery of the shock therapy.

In Example 6, the subject matter of any one of Examples 4 to 5 may include, wherein the second device is configured to receive at least one post-shock pacing therapy parameter, and wherein the second processor is configured to control the delivery of the post-shock pacing therapy based on the at least one received post-shock pacing therapy parameter.

In Example 7, the subject matter of any one of Examples 4 to 6 may include, wherein the second device is configured to receive at least one post-shock pacing therapy parameter, and wherein the second processor is configured to enable or disable the delivery of the post-shock pacing therapy based on the at least one received post-shock pacing therapy parameter.

Example 8 includes subject matter (such as a device, apparatus, or machine) that may comprise: an implantable housing; a heart signal sensing circuit configured to sense intrinsic electrical heart signals; a ventricular tachyarrhythmia (VT) detector circuit, operatively coupled to the heart signal sensing circuit, the detector circuit operable to detect a VT based on the sensed heart signals; a processor configured to control delivery of an anti-tachyarrhythmia pacing (ATP) therapy based on the detected VT; and an energy delivery circuit configured to deliver the ATP therapy in response to the detected VT, wherein the apparatus does not include a shock circuit capable of delivering a therapeutically-effective cardioverting or defibrillating shock.

In Example 9, the subject matter of Example 8 may include, wherein the processor is configured to control delivery of the ATP therapy without a communicated request from another implanted device.

In Example 10, the subject matter of any one of Examples 8 and 9 may include, wherein the processor is configured to receive at least one ATP therapy parameter, and wherein the processor is configured to enable or disable the delivery of the ATP therapy based on the at least one received ATP therapy parameter.

In Example 11, the subject matter of any one of Examples 8-10 may include, a shock detection module to detect delivery of the shock therapy.

In Example 12, the subject matter of Example 11 may include, wherein the processor is configured to inhibit or stop delivery of the ATP therapy when the shock detection module detects delivery of the shock therapy.

In Example 13, the subject matter of any one of Examples 11 to 12 may include, wherein the processor is configured to receive at least one post-shock pacing therapy parameter, and wherein the processor is configured to control the delivery of the post-shock pacing therapy based on the at least one post-shock pacing therapy parameter.

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In Example 14, the subject matter of any one of Examples 11 to 13 may include, wherein the processor is configured to receive at least one post-shock pacing therapy parameter, and wherein the processor is configured to enable or disable the delivery of the post-shock pacing therapy based on the at least one received post-shock pacing therapy parameter.

Example 15 includes subject matter (such as a device, apparatus, or machine) that may comprise: a first device including: a first implantable housing; a plurality of subcutaneous electrodes configured to sense a plurality of electrical signals; a first processor configured to control delivery of a defibrillation shock therapy based on the sensed electrical signals; a first energy delivery circuit configured to deliver the shock therapy; and a second device including: a second implantable housing; a heart signal sensing circuit configured to sense intrinsic electrical heart signals; a shock detector circuit, operatively coupled to the heart signal sensing circuit, the shock detector circuit operable to detect the delivery of shock therapy; a second processor configured to control delivery of a post-shock pacing therapy based on the detected delivery of shock therapy; and a second energy delivery circuit configured to deliver the post-shock pacing therapy.

Example 16 includes subject matter (such as a device, apparatus, or machine) that may comprise: a first device including: a first implantable housing; a plurality of subcutaneous electrodes configured to sense a plurality of electrical signals; a first processor configured to control delivery of a first cardiac electrical therapy based on the sensed electrical signals; a first energy delivery circuit configured to deliver shock therapy; and a second device including: a second implantable housing; a heart signal sensing circuit configured to sense intrinsic electrical heart signals; a ventricular tachyarrhythmia (VT) detector circuit, operatively coupled to the heart signal sensing circuit, the VT detector circuit operable to detect a VT based on the sensed heart signals; a second processor configured to control delivery of an anti-tachyarrhythmia pacing (ATP) therapy based on the detected VT; and a second energy delivery circuit configured to deliver the ATP therapy.

In Example 17, the subject matter of Example 16 may include, wherein the second processor is configured to control delivery of the ATP therapy without a communicated request from the first device.

In Example 18, the subject matter of any one of Examples 16 to 17 may include, wherein the second device is configured to receive at least one ATP therapy parameter, and wherein the second processor is configured to enable or disable the delivery of the ATP therapy based on the at least one received ATP therapy parameter.

In Example 19, the subject matter of any one of Examples 16 to 18 may include, wherein the second device comprises: a shock detection module to detect delivery of the shock therapy.

In Example 20, the subject matter of any one of Examples 16 to 19 may include, wherein the second processor is configured to inhibit or stop delivery of the ATP therapy when the shock detection module detects delivery of the shock therapy.

In Example 21, the subject matter of any one of Examples 16 to 20 may include, wherein the second device is configured to receive at least one post-shock pacing therapy parameter, and wherein the second processor is configured to control the delivery of the post-shock pacing therapy based on the at least one received post-shock pacing therapy parameter.

In Example 22, the subject matter of any one of Examples 16 to 21 may include, wherein the second device is configured to receive at least one post-shock pacing therapy parameter, and wherein the second processor is configured to enable or disable the delivery of the post-shock pacing therapy based on the at least one received post-shock pacing therapy parameter.

Example 23 includes subject matter (such as a device, apparatus, or machine) that may comprise: an implantable housing; a heart signal sensing circuit configured to sense intrinsic electrical heart signals; a ventricular tachyarrhythmia (VT) detector circuit, operatively coupled to the heart signal sensing circuit, the detector circuit operable to detect a VT based on the sensed heart signals; a processor configured to control delivery of an anti-tachyarrhythmia pacing (ATP) therapy based on the detected VT; and an energy delivery circuit configured to deliver the ATP therapy in response to the detected VT, wherein the apparatus does not include a shock circuit capable of delivering a therapeutically-effective cardioverting or defibrillating shock.

In Example 24, the subject matter of Example 23 may include, wherein the processor is configured to control delivery of the ATP therapy without a communicated request from another implanted device.

In Example 25, the subject matter of any one of Examples 23 to 24 may include, wherein the processor is configured to receive at least one ATP therapy parameter, and wherein the processor is configured to enable or disable the delivery of the ATP therapy based on the at least one received ATP therapy parameter.

In Example 26, the subject matter of any one of Examples 23 to 25 may include, a shock detection module to detect delivery of the shock therapy.

In Example 27, the subject matter of any one of Examples 23 to 26 may include, wherein the processor is configured to inhibit or stop delivery of the ATP therapy when the shock detection module detects delivery of the shock therapy.

In Example 28, the subject matter of any one of Examples 23 to 27 may include, wherein the processor is configured to receive at least one post-shock pacing therapy parameter, and wherein the processor is configured to control the delivery of the post-shock pacing therapy based on the at least one post-shock pacing therapy parameter.

In Example 29, the subject matter of any one of Examples 23 to 28 may include, wherein the processor is configured to receive at least one post-shock pacing therapy parameter, and wherein the processor is configured to enable or disable the delivery of the post-shock pacing therapy based on the at least one received post-shock pacing therapy parameter.

Example 30 includes subject matter (such as a device, apparatus, or machine) that may comprise: a first device including: a first implantable housing; a plurality of subcutaneous electrodes configured to sense a plurality of electrical signals; a first processor configured to control delivery of a defibrillation shock therapy based on the sensed electrical signals; a first energy delivery circuit configured to deliver the shock therapy; and a second device including: a second implantable housing; a heart signal sensing circuit configured to sense intrinsic electrical heart signals; a shock detector circuit, operatively coupled to the heart signal sensing circuit, the shock detector circuit operable to detect the delivery of shock therapy; a second processor configured to control delivery of a post-shock pacing therapy based on the detected delivery of shock therapy; and a second energy delivery circuit configured to deliver the post-shock pacing therapy.

In Example 31, the subject matter of Example 30 may include, wherein the second processor is configured to control delivery of the post-shock pacing therapy without a communicated request from the first device.

In Example 32, the subject matter of any one of Examples 30 to 31 may include, wherein the second device is configured to receive at least one post-shock pacing therapy parameter, and wherein the second processor is configured to control the delivery of the post-shock pacing therapy based on the at least one received post-shock pacing therapy parameter.

In Example 33, the subject matter of any one of Examples 30 to 32 may include, wherein the second device is configured to receive at least one post-shock pacing therapy parameter, and wherein the second processor is configured to enable or disable the delivery of the post-shock pacing therapy based on the at least one received post-shock pacing therapy parameter.

In Example 34, the subject matter of any one of Examples 30 to 33 may include, wherein the second device comprises: a ventricular tachyarrhythmia (VT) detector circuit, operatively coupled to the heart signal sensing circuit, the VT detector circuit operable to detect a VT based on the sensed heart signals, wherein the second processor is configured to control delivery of an anti-tachyarrhythmia pacing (ATP) therapy based on the detected VT, and wherein the second energy delivery circuit is configured to deliver the ATP therapy.

In Example 35, the subject matter of any one of Examples 30 to 34 may include, wherein the second processor is configured to inhibit or stop delivery of the ATP therapy when the shock detection module detects delivery of the shock therapy.

Each of these non-limiting examples can stand on its own, or can be combined in various permutations or combinations with one or more of the other examples.

The above detailed description is intended to be illustrative, and not restrictive. Other embodiments will be apparent to those of skill in the art upon reading and understanding the above description. The scope of the invention should, therefore, be determined with reference to the appended claims, along with the full scope of equivalents to which such claims are entitled.

The invention claimed is:

1. A system comprising:

a first device including:

a first implantable housing;

a plurality of subcutaneous electrodes configured to sense a plurality of electrical signals;

a first processor configured to control delivery of a defibrillation shock therapy based on the sensed electrical signals;

a first energy delivery circuit configured to deliver the shock therapy; and

a second device including:

a second implantable housing;

a heart signal sensing circuit configured to sense intrinsic electrical heart signals;

a shock detector circuit, operatively coupled to the heart signal sensing circuit, the shock detector circuit operable to detect the delivery of shock therapy;

a second processor configured to control delivery of a post-shock pacing therapy based on the detected delivery of shock therapy; and

a second energy delivery circuit configured to deliver the post-shock pacing therapy,

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wherein the second processor is configured to disable delivery of post-shock pacing therapy based on an indication of the absence from the system or unavailability of the first energy delivery circuit.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the second processor is configured to control delivery of the post-shock pacing therapy without a communicated request from the first device.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the second device is configured to receive at least one post-shock pacing therapy parameter, and wherein the second processor is configured to control the delivery of the post-shock pacing therapy based on the at least one received post-shock pacing therapy parameter.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the second device is configured to receive at least one post-shock pacing therapy parameter, and wherein the second processor is configured to enable or disable the delivery of the post-shock pacing therapy based on the at least one received post-shock pacing therapy parameter.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the second device comprises:

a ventricular tachyarrhythmia (VT) detector circuit, operatively coupled to the heart signal sensing circuit, the VT detector circuit operable to detect a VT based on the sensed heart signals,

wherein the second processor is configured to control delivery of an anti-tachyarrhythmia pacing (ATP) therapy based on the detected VT, and

wherein the second energy delivery circuit is configured to deliver the ATP therapy.

6. The implantable device of claim 5, wherein the second processor is further configured to stop delivery of ATP when a shock therapy is detected by the shock detector circuit.

7. The system of claim 5, wherein the second processor is configured to deliver ATP therapy when the VT detector circuit detects a VT based on the sensed heart signals and stop delivering ATP therapy when a shock is detected, wherein risk of acceleration initiated by the ATP therapy is mitigated by delivery of defibrillation therapy by the implantable defibrillator device.

8. A system comprising:

a first implantable medical device (IMD), the first IMD comprising:

a plurality of subcutaneous electrodes configured to sense a plurality of electrical signals;

a first processor configured to control delivery of a first cardiac electrical therapy based on the sensed electrical signals; and

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a first energy delivery circuit configured to deliver shock therapy; and

a second IMD comprising:

a heart signal sensing circuit configured to sense intrinsic electrical heart signals;

a ventricular tachyarrhythmia (VT) detector circuit, operatively coupled to the heart signal sensing circuit, the VT detector circuit operable to detect a VT based on the sensed heart signals;

a second processor configured to control delivery of an anti-tachyarrhythmia pacing (ATP) therapy based on the detected VT; and

a second energy delivery circuit configured to deliver the ATP therapy

wherein the second processor is configured to disable delivery of the ATP based on an indication of the absence from the system or unavailability of the first energy delivery circuit.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the second processor is configured to control delivery of the ATP therapy without a communicated request from the first device.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the second device is configured to receive at least one ATP therapy parameter, and wherein the second processor is configured to enable or disable the delivery of the ATP therapy based on the at least one received ATP therapy parameter.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein the second device comprises:

a shock detection module to detect delivery of the shock therapy.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the second processor is configured to inhibit or stop delivery of the ATP therapy when the shock detection module detects delivery of the shock therapy.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein the second device is configured to receive at least one post-shock pacing therapy parameter, and wherein the second processor is configured to control the delivery of the post-shock pacing therapy based on the at least one received post-shock pacing therapy parameter.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein the second device is configured to receive at least one post-shock pacing therapy parameter, and wherein the second processor is configured to enable or disable the delivery of the post-shock pacing therapy based on the at least one received post-shock pacing therapy parameter.

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